



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,063	07/13/2006	Franco Giovanni Ottino	21908-103586	4016
28886	7590	04/09/2009		
CLARK HILL, P.C. 500 WOODWARD AVENUE, SUITE 3500 DETROIT, MI 48226			EXAMINER BLACK, MELISSA ANN	
			ART UNIT 3612	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/09/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/561,063

Applicant(s)

OTTINO, FRANCO GIOVANNI

Examiner

MELISSA A. BLACK

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Claims 9-13 are pending in the application and rejected as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2 760 035 to Gilles in view of US Pat # 6,415,636 to Fukumoto et al and further in view of US Pat # 1,652,953 to Patterson.

Re Claim 9 and 11-13, Gilles discloses a door (See Figure 7) for a motor vehicle comprising: a supporting framework (See Figure 6) including an inner side, an opposite outer side, and a through opening between said inner and outer sides; a supporting element (11) fixedly secured to said outer side of said door, a rear-view mirror secured to said supporting element (2); an attachment element (16) fixedly connected to said supporting framework between said supporting element (11) and said through opening; a lock (20) for blocking said door in a closing position; and a key assembly (14) operatively connected to said lock and selectively actuated for disabling/enabling opening of said lock (20) from outside the motor vehicle.

Gilles fails to disclose said supporting element including a cylindrical sleeve defining a seat, wherein said cylindrical sleeve of said supporting element abuts said casing and said supporting element extends into said through hole of said attachment element and abuts an end

of said casing directly adjacent said peripheral flange and further including a reinforcement element disposed between said peripheral flange of said casing and said face of said attachment element.

Fukumoto et al teaches the use of the supporting element (13) have a cylinder sleeve (133) defining a seat (See figure 6), wherein said cylindrical sleeve of said supporting element abuts said casing (133a) and supporting element extends into said through hole (See figure 6) of said attachment element (522, 523) and abuts an end of said casing directly adjacent said peripheral flange (Near 524a)(see figure 6) and further including a reinforcement element (173 c) disposed between said peripheral flange (See figure 10) of said casing and said face of said attachment element (52).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to include the cylindrical sleeve and seat as taught by Fukumoto et al on the device of Gilles in order to protect the keep hole and to further strengthen the connection of the casing to the vehicle.

Gilles, as modified by Fukumoto et al, further fails to disclose, said key assembly including a casing having a peripheral flange fixed to a face of said attachment element on a side of said attachment element facing towards said inner side of said door and said key assembly is covered towards said outer side of said door by said supporting element and is accessible from outside the motor vehicle through said seat and said casing (12) of said key assembly (14) is rigidly fixed, via releasable fixing means, to a face of said attachment element (16) set between said supporting means and a through opening (See Figure 6), wherein said face of said attachment element faces towards the inner side of the door.

Patterson teaches a casing (13) of the key assembly is rigidly fixed, via releasable fixing means (screws and peripheral flange 19) (See figure 2) to a face of an attachment element (15) wherein said face of said attachment element faces towards the inner side of the door (see figure 2).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include releasable fixing means as taught by Patterson on the device of Gilles as modified in order to make the key assembly replaceable if broken and strengthen the connection.

Re Claim 10, Both Fukumoto et al and Patterson teach the key assembly being accessible from the outside of the motor vehicle without moving anything, and therefor it would have been obvious to move the key assembly to a position on the supporting element that would not require the movement of the mirror, furthermore it is a mere relocation of parts requiring little to no routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA A. BLACK whose telephone number is (571)272-4737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-3:30 ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on (571) 272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis H. Pedder/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3612

/M. A. B./

Examiner, Art Unit 3612

4/6/09